balance Rs. 2 crores is to be met by the State Government. The project is to be completed by 31st March, 2003.

In addition, the Ministry has allocated 500 solar lanterns and 250 solar home lighting systems to LAHDC, and 250 solar lanterns and 250 solar home lighting systems to the Ladakh Ecological Development Group (LEDEG), Leh, a local non-governmental organization, under the solar photovoltaic programme for 2001-02. The estimated Central financial assistance for these systems is Rs. 39 lakhs. These systems are to be installed/distributed by 31st March, 2002.

Development of a Solar Passenger Car

382. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that recently four Bangalore Engineering students have developed a solar passenger car;

(b) if so, whether they have approached the Ministry for large-scale production; and

(c) the list of such inventions pending Ministry's approval since the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes Sir. Four students of R.V. College of Engineering, Bangalore are reported to have developed a hybrid solar electric car. A prototype model was displayed at a car and bike show held in Bangalore recently. It is reported that an old car has been modified to run a DC motor using electricity from batteries and solar modules. Five solar modules are fitted on the bonnet and back of the car.

(b) No proposal to support large-scale production of such a hybrid car has been received by the Ministry either from the Engineering College or the students.

(c) There is no system or requirement of approval by the Ministry of such inventions. An inventor can file an application with the

Patents Office directly for patenting his invention. However, the Ministry has recently formulated a new scheme called Non-Conventional Energy Technology Commercialization Fund (NETCOF), under which research organizations and industry can seek support for pre-commercial development and pilot production of a product or technology. There are no proposals relating to such inventions pending with the Ministry for support under this scheme.

Installation of solar energy system for heating water by Group Housing Societies

383. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any incentive given to Co-operative Group housing Societies to install solar energy system for heating water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this scheme has been a success; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under an Interest Subsidy Scheme of the Ministry, soft loans are being offered for installation of solar water heaters. The scheme is being implemented through IREDA and its financial intermediaries as well as seven public sector banks through their designated branches. Loans are available at 5% interest rate to individuals, small business establishments and non-profit organizations, and 8.3% interest rate for profit making organizations. Co-operative group housing societies are eligible for loans at 5% interest rate for installation of solar water heaters. the same benefit is also available to members of the societies in their individual capacity.

(c) The response to the soft loan scheme has been good, especially in the last 2-3 years. A large number of individual and institutional users have availed of the loan facility. Water heating systems using a total of 110,000 square metre of solar collectors have been financed so far under this scheme. In case of housing societies, members often